

Taking the Back Track

he thunder of loyal protest has made itself heard in Washington and the President has precipitately not gracefully retreated from his untenable position.

On Thursday 11th the following letter to the Secretary of War was given out for publication:

I have to-day considered with more care than when the subject was first presented to me the action of your department in directing letters to be addressed to the Governors of all the States offering to return if desired, to the loyal States, the Union flags captured during the War of the Rebellion by Confederate forces and afterward recovered by Government troops, and to the Confederate States the flags captured by the Union forces, all of which for many years have been packed in boxes and stored in the cellar and attic of the War Department. I am of the opinion that the return of the flags in the manner thus contemplated is not authorized by existing law, nor justified as an Executive act.

Therefore, that no further steps be taken in the matter (except to examine and inventory these flags and adopt proper measures for their preservation. Any direction as to the final disposition of them should originate with Congress.

Yours truly

(Signed) JOHN C. FRYE, President of the National Union of Manufacturers.

It is a pity that the President delayed considering this authority until after a Cabinet meeting had approved the purpose of sending back the Rebel flags, until after his Secretary of War had caused letters to be written to all the Governors of the Confederate States, discharging the plea of tendering a return of the trophies in the name of the President, until after the chorus of protest rang out from all parts of the loyal North and even until after legal proceedings had been regularly instituted by the National Union of Manufacturers.

The President has thus tardily considered on Monday morning last as soon as the purpose was made public. But the return of the flags in the manner thus contemplated is not authorized by existing law nor justified as an Executive act.

It will be impossible however for him or his administration to escape from the odium of profligacy, to perpetrate the outrage upon loyal sentiment of desiring to do a bad thing revealed only by their status at the popular protest.

The President has finally concluded to ignore what the law authorizes and to ignore him to do what he deems proper in connection with the last sentence of his letter, that is to say, the final disposition of these flags, as he duty in this respect is already explicitly set forth in Section 1 of the Revised Statutes wherein it is provided that all flags and standards captured from enemies of the United States, after being collected by the Secretary of War, shall be delivered to the President for his disposal.

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THE REBEL FLAGS

Where They Are Kept

What They Represent

(Special Dispatch to the Boston Journal.)

WASHINGTON, June 15. The "Massachusetts" as Adjutant General Drum calls it, of sorting and preparing the rebel flags, captured by Union soldiers at the close of countless lives for transmission to the "Governors to Southern States is progressing rapidly at the War Department. Five hundred and forty-two Confederate battle flags are being packed for delivery to them.

President Cleveland chooses to treat as the legitimate successors of the States of the Confederacy. It has not been possible to discover who is responsible for this proceeding. But the fact of the Administration has gone forth, and these flags are being ready for shipment to Southern Capitals. The President is said to have given the order before he left for his vacation. It has not been ascertained whether or not Secretary of War Sherman approved it. So far as is known in the offices of the department where such things should be known, there has been no formal correspondence upon the subject beyond the order and the circular letter written by Adjutant General Drum by the direction of the President.

THE SECRET COLLECTION

of a large troika is stored in a room at the rear of the War Department. The flags are arranged in a room where they can be seen by visitors, but the Administration thought that the feelings of its Southern supporters would be hurt by such an exhibition of them and they were removed from public gaze. No one has these flags were kept in a basement room, but they have been in this attic room for some time.

On the left of the room as you enter there are 23 flags fastened to their staves. These are flags once captured by rebels and afterward, we are told, recaptured. Standing with these are the flags of the colored troops, chiefly recruited in the South, returned to the department when the rebels were mastered out. On the right wall were about 300 Confederate flags, with all manner of staffs, from those of the best finish and most magnificent to the simple poles cut in the woods and the bark left on.

To the right is a row of about 100 rebel flags which have been fully identified and the history of each is now being written out so that they can be sent on request to the Southern Governors interested. In all, some 2600 are

READY FOR SHIPMENT

Against this same wall to the right are three double cases reaching nearly to the ceiling, divided into good sized pigeon holes and in each of these is a rebel flag without staff. Each as rolled up, and each has a number and tag attached which corresponds with the number in the book containing the history of the flag. The remaining side of the room is taken up with a case of pigeon holes as extending half way to the ceiling. These boxes are a nearly solid mass of flags, a rebel flag with its number attached. To the top of this list are attached a lot of garish flags, mostly taken from captured rebel forces. Among these and ready for shipment are the flags of Fort Mifflin and of the Citadel of Charleston.

THE COMPLETION OF THE REBEL FLAG TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE

The book which has the record of these flags is a curious study. There was opportunity to-day for only a brief examination of each flag's history in a description of each flag with its number in a list of the flags, company colors, headquarters, date of capture, and the place of its capture. The Union troops or soldiers who took it are known. These facts are interesting and sometimes very interesting, as the colors captured by rebel States are designated in separate lists.

REMARKABLE RECORD OF MAY 17

When we glance at the book which for the present it is not desired should be closely examined about there is a volume in the archives of the Government so crowded with records of the most daring of daring. Witness this: On May 17, 1862, the flag was captured by private John A. Slocum, called a cavalryman and together they rushed to the colors. The officer in command called out to his line to shoot the Yankees. The cavalryman fell dead. Private Slocum, who was a color bearer grasped the flag, and, though fired at from all directions, repulsed the Union lines just as the skimmers on the side advanced on the enemy.

IS IT A LEGAL ACT

And the first Democratic President since the war sends back the flags. The sections of the Revised Statutes relied upon to justify the Administration are widely construed. There is a prohibition against such action by Congress to get these flags here it certainly receives the same authority to send them away. No captured property can be disposed of or retained by the President.

Not a Tax on the Purchaser

(By Edgar Oster.)

The Cheyenne, Mich., Democrat, had probably many other free-trade journals having circulation in country, but it is taking up the De Pauw falsehood which has been silenced in newspapers of larger name. Says the Democrat: "At De Pauw's death worth \$150,000, he made it out of protected plate glass, his profits were a tax on the purchaser of glass."

Of it, he did not make it all nor any one glass, and his profits were not a tax on the purchaser of glass.

As the result of the successful introduction of plate glass into the United States by Mr. De Pauw, the purchaser now pays just what he would have paid when he was dependent on Europe for the supply under free trade policy. When the market is depressed he pays less than before. When Mr. De Pauw lived he was the owner of the New Albany glass works he undertook to make nearly every flint glass a fit own State produced would be a losing business. For nearly years he lost money steadily in the undertaking, and but for the interposition of a protective tariff would have been fully ruined. He asserted time and again, and his total profit on his glass works would not make an average of 6 per cent per annum on his investment, counting from the day of beginning.

The late Mr. De Pauw was a man who made money by saying it. He was the only person who said that the only way to get the market for plate glass was to protect it.

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Special Notices.

STATEMENT OF THE

Phoenix Insurance Co.,

OF HARTFORD, CONN.

On the last day of January 1887

THE CAPITAL STOCK OF THE COMPANY

WAS \$1,000,000.00

PAID UP \$200,000.00

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